



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held July 22, 2003, the Board took the following action:

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The following item was called up for consideration:

Supervisor Knabe's recommendation to send a five-signature letter to Governor Davis, Senate President Pro Tem, Speaker of the Assembly, Chair of the Assembly Public Safety Committee and the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation encouraging enactment of immediate State legislation to extend indefinitely Megan's Law which allows law enforcement to share the whereabouts of registered sex offenders with the community, and to enact such legislation which would require the disclosure of their exact work and residential address.

Supervisor Knabe made the following statement:

"More must be done to expand and improve Megan's Law in California. Megan's Law expires in California at the end of this year. Megan's Law became law in California on September 25, 1996. This law allows law enforcement to share the whereabouts of registered sex offenders with the community. Megan's Law also paved the way for concerned citizens to access specific information about sex offenders at a local police station including a picture, criminal history and residence zip code.

"In March, the United States Supreme Court ruled that states could release all information about sex offenders on the Internet, including their exact work and residential address. This was a critical ruling for those who work to protect our children from sexual predators. Every legal obstacle to allow full disclosure about sex offenders in our community had been resolved. AB 488 was this year's legislative vehicle to extend Megan's Law indefinitely in California and to require the State Department of Justice to post Megan's Law information on the Internet by July 1, 2005.

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“Unfortunately, this legislation became embroiled in partisan politics and was placed in the ‘inactive file’ by the end of the legislative session, thus failing to act to keep Megan’s Law from expiring at the end of this year. The failure of the legislature to act on this important law puts our children at risk. The State Legislature should work in a bipartisan fashion to immediately pass legislation to protect our children and communities from registered sex offenders and to make available the exact location of their places of residence and work addresses.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried, the Executive Officer of the Board was instructed to send a five-signature letter to Governor Davis, Senate President Pro Tem, Speaker of the Assembly, Chair of the Assembly Public Safety Committee and the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation, encouraging enactment of immediate State legislation to extend indefinitely Megan's Law which allows law enforcement to share the whereabouts of registered sex offenders with the community, and to enact such legislation which would require the disclosure of serious sex offenders and high risk offenders' exact work and residential addresses.

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Copies distributed:

- Each Supervisor
- Chief Administrative Officer
- County Counsel

Letters sent to:

- Governor Gray Davis
- Chair of the Assembly Public Safety Committee
- Senate President Pro Tempore
- Speaker of the Assembly
- Each Member, Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation